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General Assembly

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Second Committee

Organization of work of the Second Committee

Note by the Secretariat

1. At the 2nd meeting on 16 September 1998, the Second Committee adopted its programme of work, as contained in the annex to the present document.

Allocation of items

2. The agenda items that have been allocated by the General Assembly to the Second Committee are listed in the letter dated 15 September 1998 from the President of the Assembly to the Chairman of the Second Committee (A/C.2/53/1). Background information on those items may be found in the annotations to the agenda (A/53/100 and Add.1).

Programme of work

3. The programme of work (see annex) has been prepared bearing in mind paragraph (b) of rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the organizational arrangements agreed upon by the Assembly at the outset of its current session (A/53/250) and the availability of documentation. The number of meetings suggested for the general discussion of the agenda items allocated to the Second Committee is based on past experience.

List of documents

4. Attention is drawn to the list of documents submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Second Committee (A/C.2/53/L.1/Add.1). The programme of work should be read in conjunction with the list of documents in order to obtain a full picture of the scope of the Committee's work programme. A revised and updated version of the list will be issued shortly before the Committee begins its work.

Length of statements

5. The Second Committee, in the past, decided to limit statements on all agenda items, with the exception of the general debate, to 7 minutes and to limit statements during the general debate to 15 minutes.

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Conference facilities and meetings arrangements

6. Taking into account the availability of conference services for the Main Committees of the General Assembly, an average of eight formal meetings a week have been scheduled for the Second Committee. Unless otherwise specified, meetings will be held at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. In this connection, the Assembly decided to remind delegations that punctuality is of the utmost importance in the interest of ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations. As decided by the Assembly, the requirement of the presence of at least one quarter of the members of the Committee to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed has been waived.

Informal consultations

7. In view of the financial measures affecting conference services, and as indicated in the programme of work, some of the formal meetings allocated to the Second Committee will be utilized for informal consultations so as to ensure full servicing of these consultations.

Report of the Economic and Social Council

8. The Second Committee is reminded that, in accordance with a decision of the General Assembly, chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council are to be considered in company with documentation under other agenda items, as well as under item 12. The list of documentation contains further information on this procedure (see para. 4 above).

Conclusion of the work of the Committee

9. Bearing in mind the allocation of the number of meetings available to the Second Committee, it is proposed that the Committee set a target date of 27 November for the conclusion of its work.

Annex

Proposed programme of work of the Second Committee

Item to be considered		*Document title and symbol*
Week of 5–9 October		
General debate		
Tuesday, 6 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		
General debate		
Thursday, 8 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		
General debate (continued)		
1 p.m.	*Deadline for list of speakers on general debate*	
Friday, 9 October		
10 a.m.		
General debate (concluded)		
Friday, 9 October		
3 p.m.		
Item 91	Macroeconomic policy questions	
	(b) Financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries	Report of the Secretary-General on net flows and transfer of resources between developing and developed countries (A/53/228)
		Report of the Secretary-General on global financial flows and their impact on the developing countries
		Report of the Secretary-General on high-level international intergovernmental consideration on financing of development
		Report of the Secretary-General containing an index indicating recurring themes and key elements in the consideration of the topic
	(d) External debt crisis and development	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/185
Week of 12–16 October		
Monday, 12 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		
Item 91	(b) and (d) (concluded)	

Item to be considered		*Document title and symbol*
Tuesday, 13 October		
10 a.m.		
Item 91	Macroeconomic policy questions	
	(c) Commodities	Note by the Secretary-General of the United Nations transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on world commodity trends and prospects
3 p.m.		
Item 92	Sectoral policy questions	
	(a) Business and development	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/191
	(b) Industrial development cooperation	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/170
Wednesday, 14 October		
10 a.m.		
Item 92	(a) and (b) (concluded)	
3 p.m.		
Item 95	Operational activities for development	Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council
		Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to review the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children (A/53/186)
		Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial policy review of operational activities undertaken by the United Nations development system
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Fellowships in the United Nations system" (A/53/154)
6 p.m.	*Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 91 (b) and (d)*	
Thursday, 15 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		
Item 95	Operational activities for development (continued)	
1 p.m.	*Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 91 (c)*	

Item to be considered		*Document title and symbol*
Friday, 16 October		
10 a.m.		
Item 95	Operational activities for development (concluded)	
3 p.m.		
Informal consultations		
6 p.m.	*Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 92 (a) and (b)*	
Week of 19–23 October		
Monday, 19 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		
Item 93	Sustainable development and international economic cooperation	Report of the Secretary-General on the utilization of the development dividend
		Report of the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system
	(a) Implementation of and follow-up to major consensus agreements on development	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and on the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade
	(i) Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of the Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries	
	(ii) Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade	
Tuesday, 20 October		
10 a.m.–12 noon		
Item 93	Sustainable development and international economic cooperation	
	(b) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy	Report of the Secretary-General
	(e) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s	Report of the Secretary-General

Item to be considered		*Document title and symbol*
12 noon–1 p.m.		
Observance of World Food Day in Conference Room 2		
3 p.m.		
Item 93	(b) and (e) (concluded)	
	and	
	(d) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership	
	(g) Cultural development	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 51/179 and 52/197
6 p.m.	*Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 95*	
Wednesday, 21 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		
Item 94	Environment and sustainable development	Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council on the wor of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session
		Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (A/53/156-E/1998/78)
		Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/200 on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon
		Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Program on the work of its special session
	(a) Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21	Report of the Secretary-General on the ways and means of undertaking the review of progress made in implementing conventions related to sustainable development
6 p.m.	*Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 93 (a)*	
Thursday, 22 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		
Item 94	Environment and sustainable development	
	(b) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secreta of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the resu of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention

Item to be considered		*Document title and symbol*
		Report of the Secretary-General on the review of arrangements for administrative support to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
	(c) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	Report of the Secretary-General on the development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States (A/53/65-E/1998/5)
		Report of the Secretary-General on plans and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States
	(d) Convention on Biological Diversity	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the results of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention
	(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/198
6 p.m.	*Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 93 (b), (d), (e) and (g)*	
Friday, 23 October		
10 a.m.		
Item 94	(b), (c), (d) and (e) (concluded)	
3 p.m.		
Informal consultations		
6 p.m.	*Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 94 (a)*	
Week of 26–30 October		
Monday, 26 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		
Informal consultations		
Tuesday, 27 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		
Informal consultations		
1 p.m.	*Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 94 (b), (c), (d) and (e)*	
Wednesday, 28 October		
10 a.m.		
Item 96	Training and research	
	(a) United Nations University	Report of the Council of the United Nations University (A/53/31)
		Report of the Secretary-General

Item to be considered		*Document title and symbol*
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations University
	(b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/206
		Report by the Executive Director of the Institute
3 p.m.		
Item 97	Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (A/53/163-E/1998/79)
Thursday, 29 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		
Item 93	Sustainable development and international economic cooperation	
	(c) Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/190
	(f) Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development	Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
Friday, 30 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		
Item 91	Macroeconomic policy questions	
	(a) Trade and development	Report of the Trade and Development Board
		Note by the Secretary-General of the United Nations transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the transit environment in the landlocked States of Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours
		Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on recommendations for effective follow-up to the relevant sections of the agreed conclusions of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 1997 of the Economic and Social Council
1 p.m.	*Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 96 (a) and (b)*	
6 p.m.	*Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 97*	

Item to be considered		*Document title and symbol*
Week of 2–6 November		
Monday, 2 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		
Item 98	Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006)	Report of the Secretary-General
		Report of the Secretary-General on the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty
6 p.m.	*Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 93 (c) and (f)*	
Tuesday, 3 November		
10 a.m.		
Item 98	(concluded)	
3 p.m.		
United Nations Pledging Conference for the World Food Programme		
6 p.m.	*Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 91 (a)*	
Wednesday, 4 November		
10 a.m.		
United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities		
3 p.m.		
Informal consultations		
Thursday, 5 November		
10 a.m.		
United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities		
3 p.m.		
Informal consultations		
1 p.m.	*Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 98*	
Friday, 6 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		
Informal consultations		

Item to be considered	*Document title and symbol*
Week of 9–13 November	
Monday, 9 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Item 12 Report of the Economic and Social Council	Report of the Council for the year 1998 (A/53/3)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award and the Trust Fund
	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/225 entitled "Public administration and development" (A/53/173-E/1998/87)
Tuesday, 10 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Informal consultations	
Wednesday, 11 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Informal consultations	
6 p.m. *Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 12*	
Thursday, 12 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Informal consultations	
Friday, 13 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Informal consultations	
Week of 16–20 November	
Informal consultations	
Week of 23–27 November	
Informal consultations and conclusion of the work of the Second Committee	